

Baltimore Data Day 2010: Using Data to Drive Community Change

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Baltimore City Student Attendance Initiative



Baltimore's
SAFE & SOUND
Campaign

 OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE-BALTIMORE



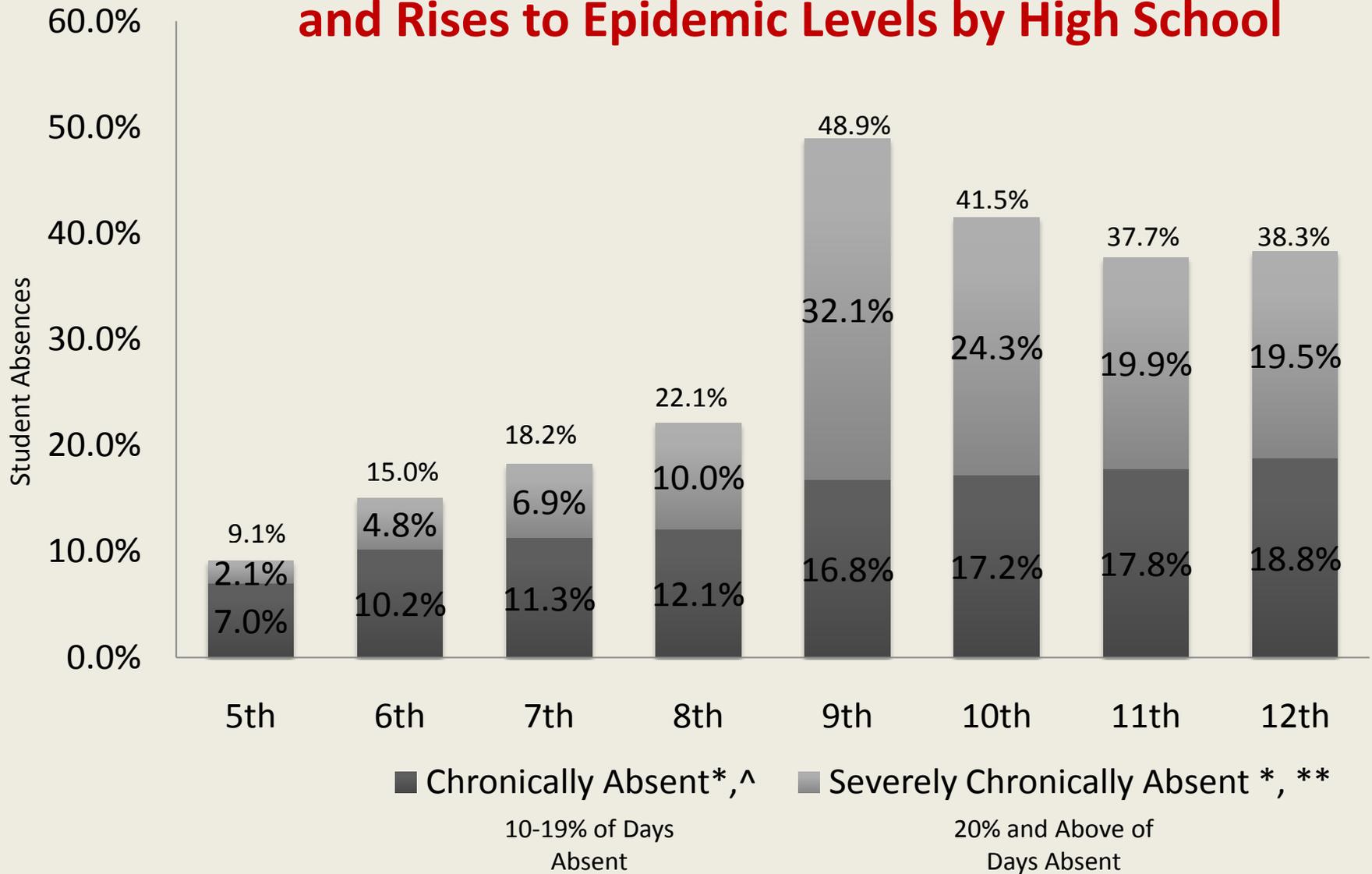
Baltimore's Attendance Strategy

- Use Data to Understand the Problem
- Bring in School, City and Community Partners
- Establish a Work Group
- Study Best Practices
- Implement School and System Reforms
- Change Use of Attendance Data

Using Data for Understanding and Organizing



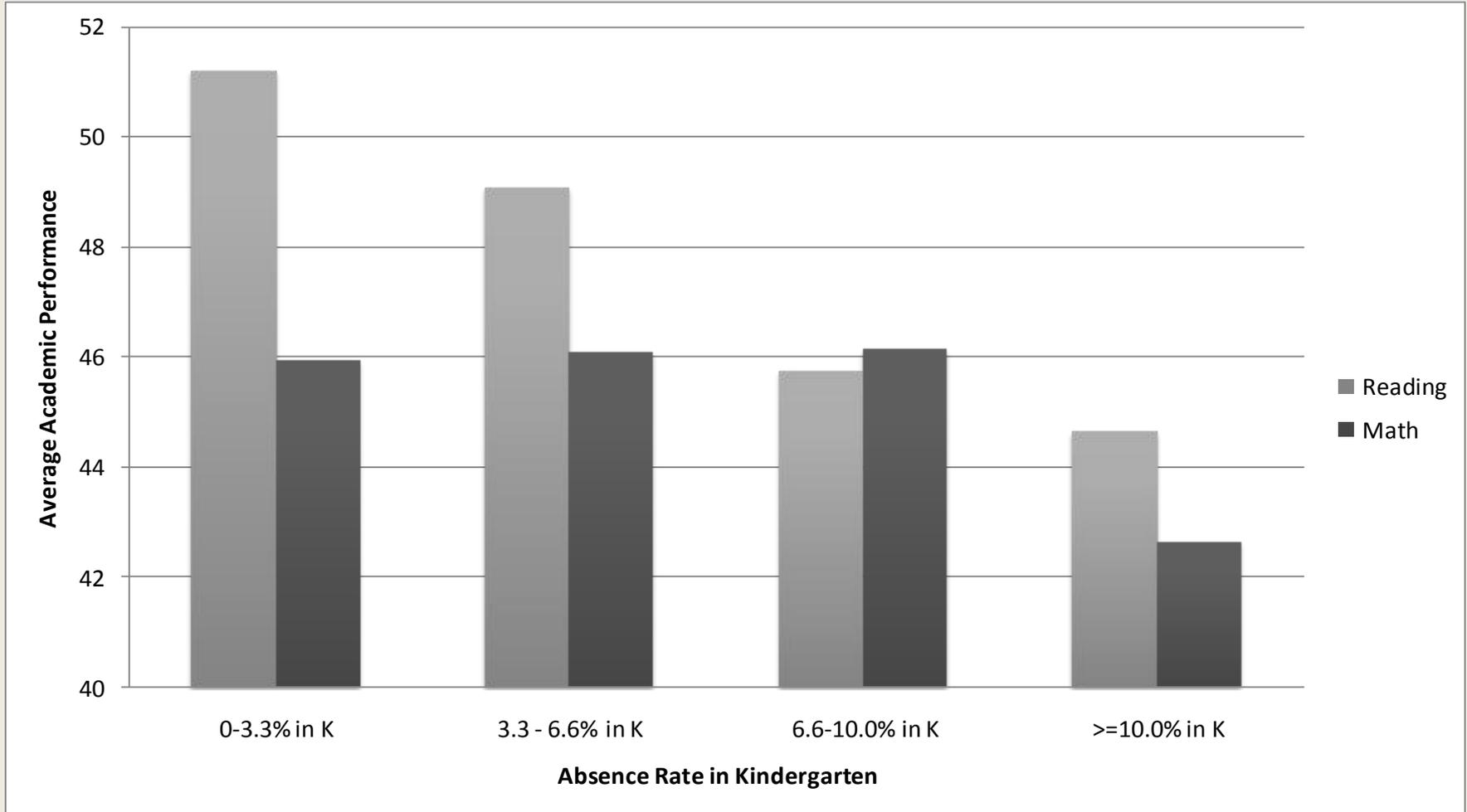
The problem: Chronic Absence in Baltimore is High and Rises to Epidemic Levels by High School



Source: Baltimore Education Research Consortium

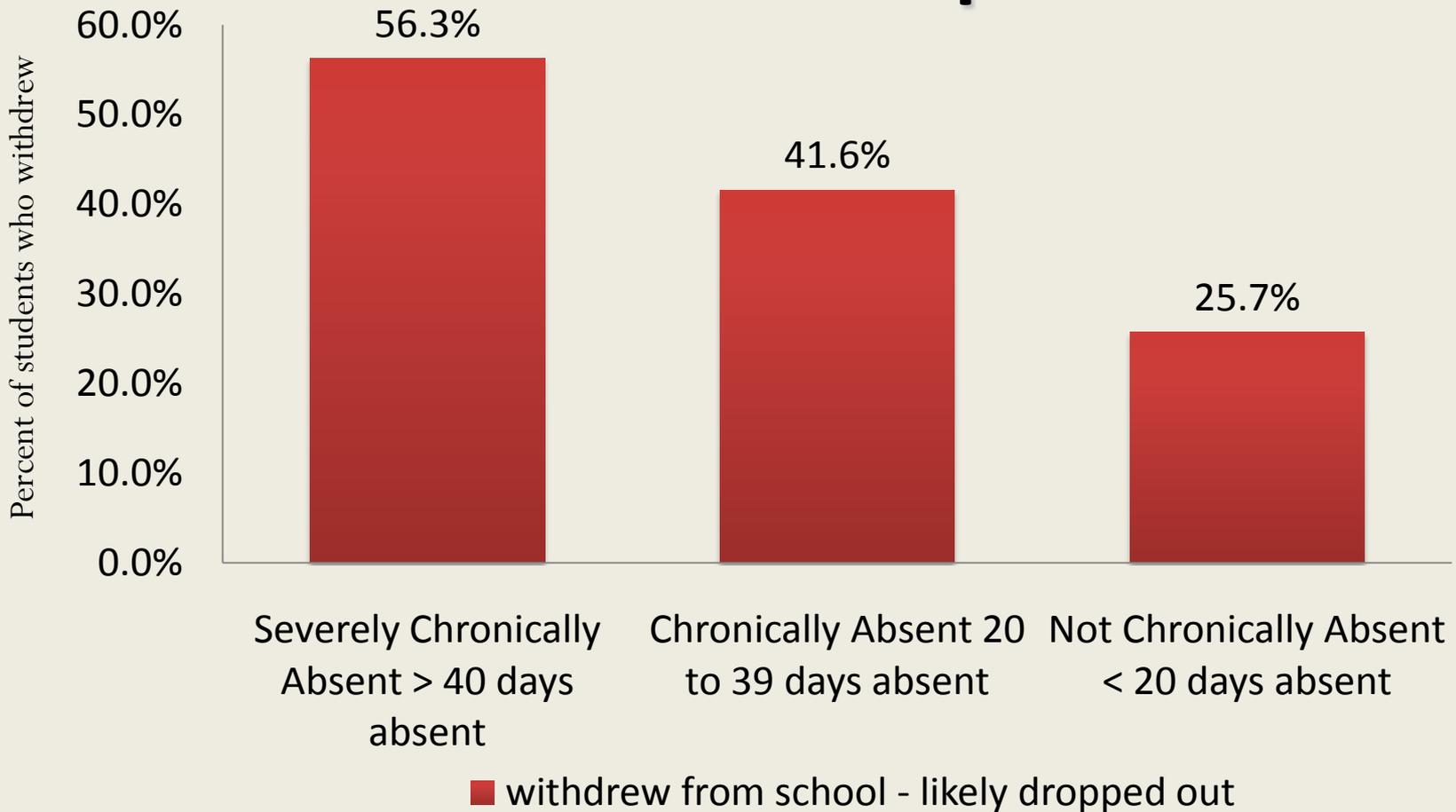
The Impact of Attendance on Student Success

Chronically absent kindergarteners in a six city study had the lowest performance on 5th grade assessments.



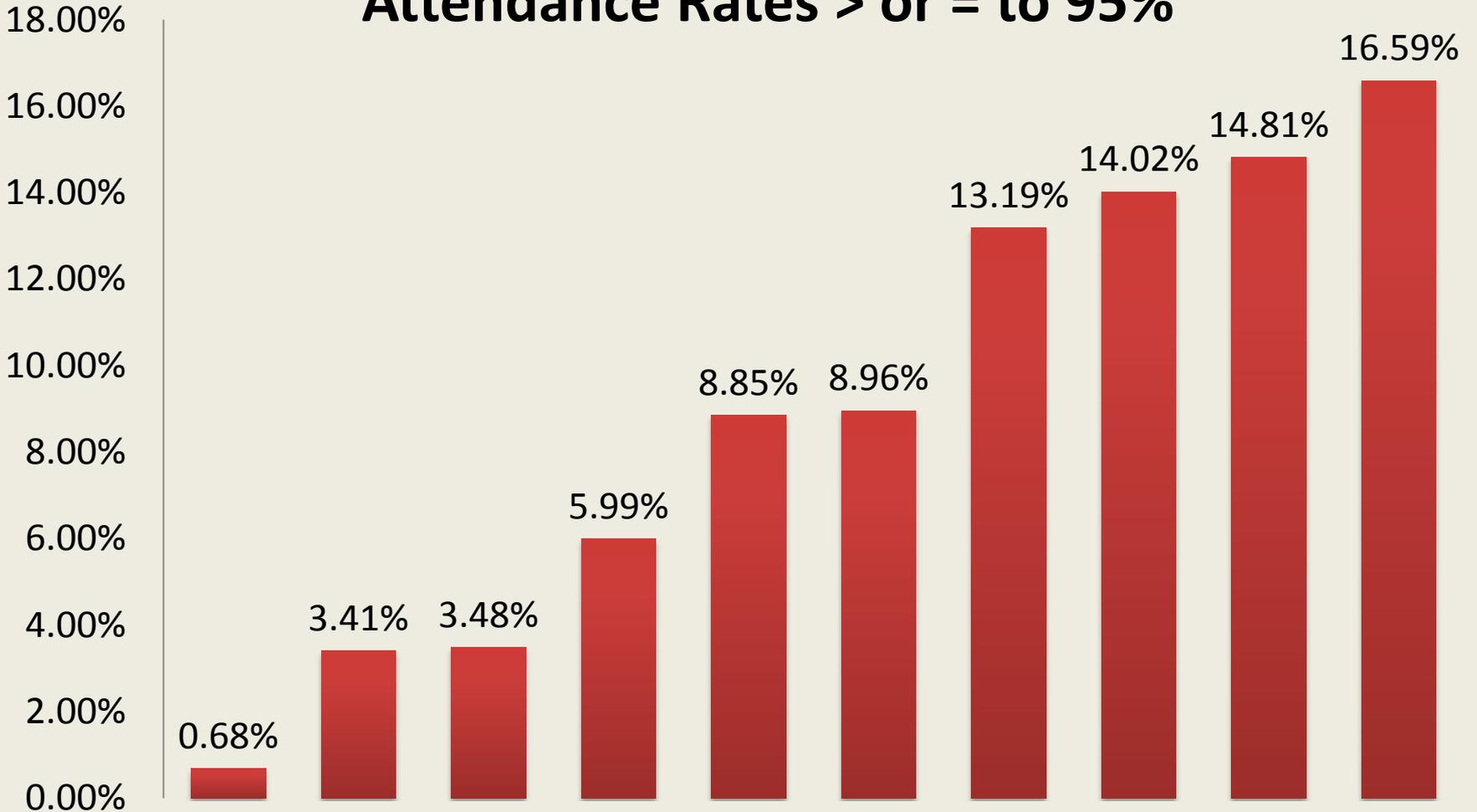
Source: Chang and Romero, 2008

Poor Attendance in 6th Grade Predicts Dropout



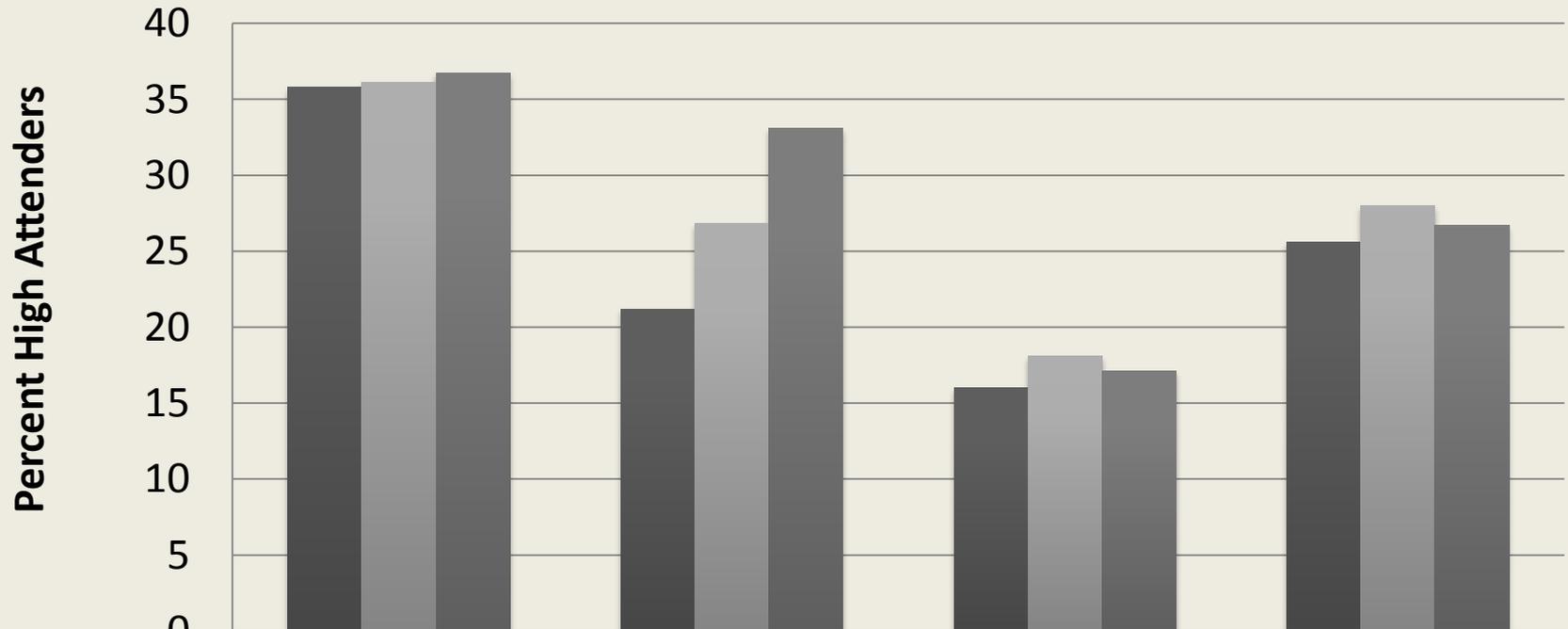
High School Outcomes by Rates of Chronic Absenteeism in Sixth Grade
(Baltimore City Public Schools, 1990-00 Sixth Grade Cohort)

Chronic Absence Rates, 10 Baltimore Schools with Attendance Rates > or = to 95%



Paying Attention Only to Average Daily Attendance Can Allow Chronic Absence to go Unnoticed.

High Attenders are Students who Miss 5 or Fewer Days of School Each Year



	Elementary	Middle	High	All City Schools
■ % HA 2006-7	35.8	21.2	16	25.6
■ % HA 2007-8	36.1	26.8	18.1	28
■ % HA 2008-9	36.7	33.1	17.1	26.7

Data Driven Strategy Development

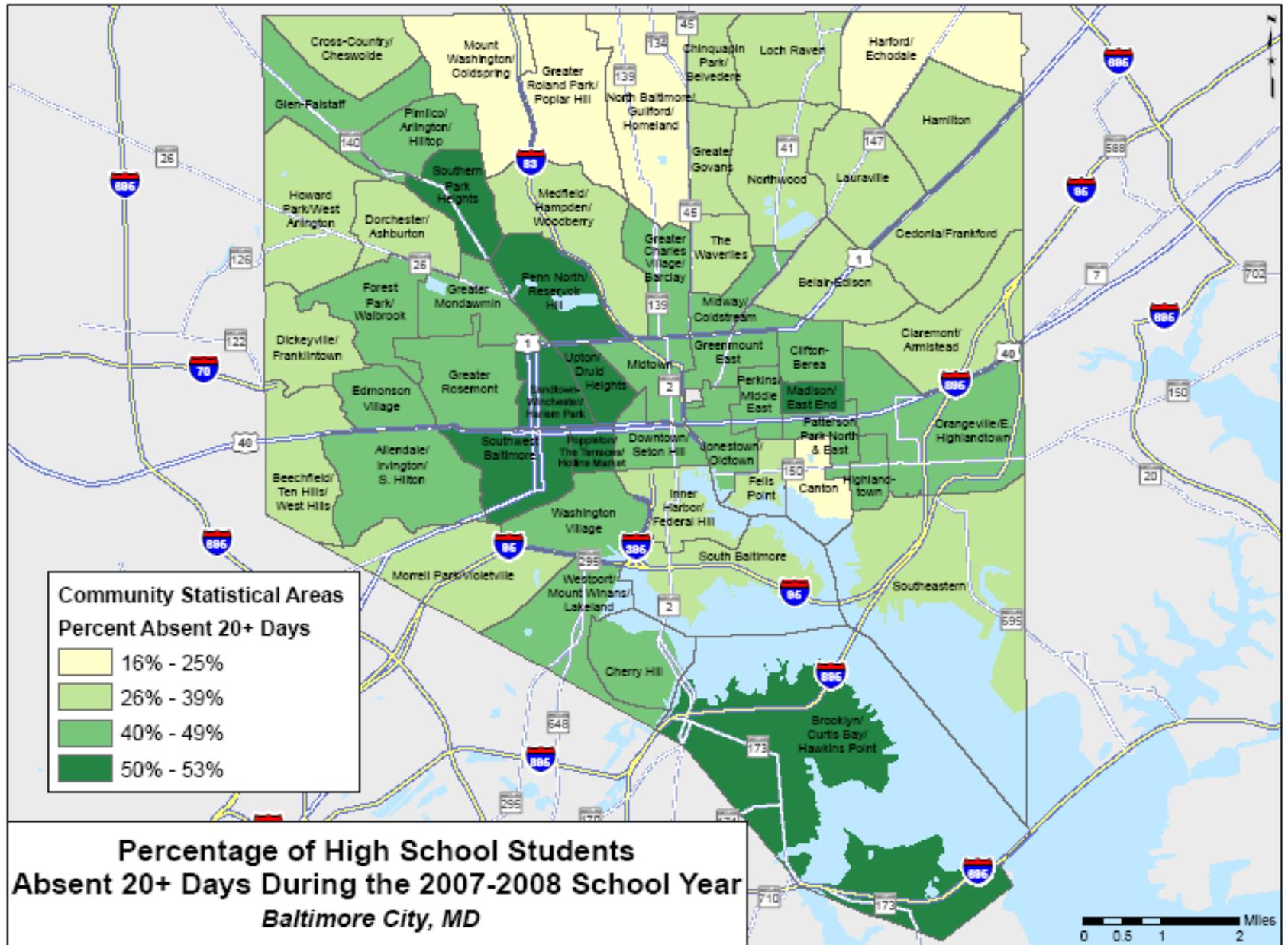


While All school absences reduce learning, they happen for different reasons, and need different solutions

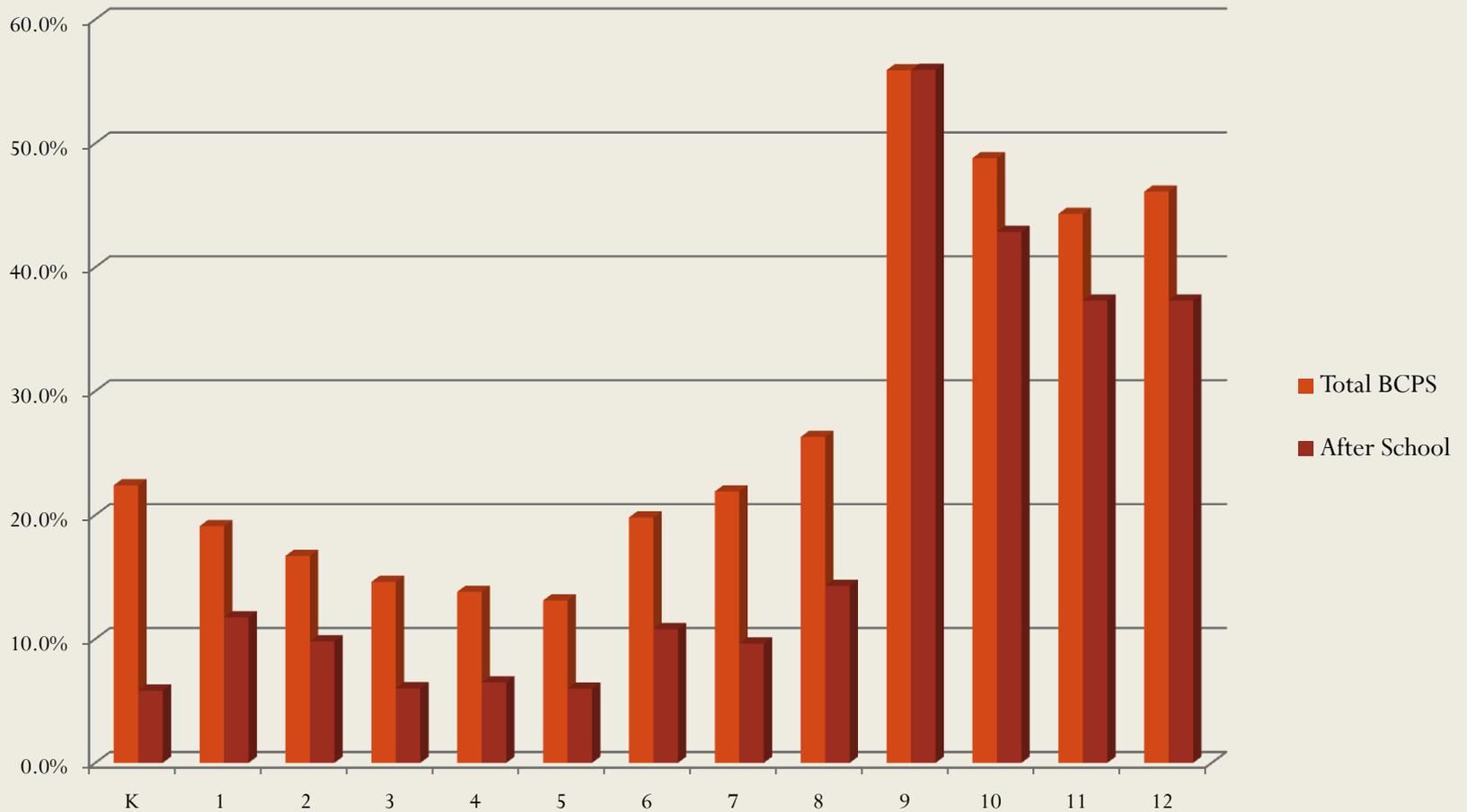


The Work Group Studied the issue of Attendance from multiple perspectives

- School system attendance trends
- Laws, regulations and policies that govern attendance
- Best practices that support high levels of attendance
- Early Chronic Absence
- Neighborhoods
 - Health and Mental Health
 - After School
- Transportation
 - Suspension
- Nutrition
 - Juvenile Services
 - Homelessness
 - Foster Care



Percentage of City Schools youth who missed 10% (18 days) or more days during SY2009 compared to City Schools students in Afterschool Programs:



Recommendation: Increase the Use of Attendance Data

Attendance Measures are:

- Available
- Accessible
- Understandable
- Powerful



Recommendation: Use More than One Measure of Attendance

- Using more than ADA:** growing use of multiple measures —
- chronic absence – 20 to 39 days (about 10-19%)
 - Severe chronic absence - more than 40 days (about 20%)
 - truancy – unexcused absences
 - high attenders - 5 or fewer days absent
 - Regular attendance - 9 or fewer days absent (about 5%)
 - suspensions and expulsions – school imposed absences
 - And average daily attendance.

Recommendation: Rewards not Punishment

- Establish a school going culture
- Stress supportive problem-solving approaches
- Utilize incentives at a 4 to 1 ratio to punishments
- Reward students and parents for good not just perfect attendance
- Recognize school staff who have good attendance

Data Collection and Dissemination



Baltimore City's Use of Attendance Data

- **Taking Attendance more often:** daily in K-5, in each class in 6-12th
- **Increasing Accountability:** district-level “Attendance-Stat” to track data collection and attendance rates
- **Improving school report cards:** Adding both excused and unexcused absences data to the report card
- **Improving Dissemination:** web-portal gives real-time & historical data for students and whole school to principals
- **Triaging Schools:** high absence schools flagged for intervention
- **Triaging Students:** high-absence students are flagged for referral to Student Support Teams and community services

Baltimore City Public Schools Attendance Data

A School's Attendance Data

School Year 2009 - 2010 Average Daily Attendance			SY 0910 vs. SY 0809 Change		
All	Reg.	Sped.	All	Reg.	Sped.
93.13%	93.58%	90.47%	-0.39%	-0.03%	-1.68%

School Year 2009 - 2010 Chronic Absence Rate			School Year 2009 - 2010 # enrolled Truant students		
All	Reg.	Sped.	All	Reg.	Sped.
22.59%	21.71%	27.45%	26	16	7

School Year 2009 - 2010 # of High Attenders			School Year 2009 - 2010 % of High Attenders		
All	Reg.	Sped.	All	Reg.	Sped.
214	187	27	64.46%	66.55%	52.94%

A Student's Attendance Data

Attendance Rate			
	SY 0910 vs. SY 0809 Change	Chronic Absence	SY 0910 # of Days Unexcused
90%	5%	10%	4

Attendance Data: A Tool for School Improvement

Poor Attendance is:

- an early warning sign
- predictive of academic failure
- a drag on pace of instruction
- costly for schools and cities



Baltimore City Student Attendance Initiatives'

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Photography by
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